

## Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CPR-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 SS-15 DODE-00 SSC-01 /043 W

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R 301250Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9804

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T OSLO 2201

E.O.GDS

TAGS: PDIP, BE, UR, NO

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BRUSSELS-SERGE K.ROMANOVSKIY

REF: BRUSSELS 03914

1. NEWLY NAMED SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM SERGE K. ROMANOVSKIY LEFT OSLO IN MARCH AFTER SERVING HERE FOR SEVEN YEARS, THE LAST 18 MOS AS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HIS ASSIGNMENT IN OSLO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN A DOWNTURN IN HIS CAREER. IT WAS FOREIGN TO HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AND SPECULATION WAS THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP WANTED HIM TO BE ABROAD BECAUSE OF HIS PREVIOUS POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

2. ROMANOVSKIY STARTED SLOWLY IN OSLO. ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS FAIR FRENCH, HIS SPARSE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH LIMITED HIS CONTACT WITH NORWEGIANS AND WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, WITH WHOM HE TENDED TO BE RATHER RESERVED. EARLY IN HIS STAY HERE HE AND HIS WIFE STUDIED ENGLISH, BUT HE RARELY SPOKE IT, HOWEVER, DURING HIS STAY SOVIET EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH NORWEGIANS PICKED UP RAPIDLY, PARTLY DUE TO THE IMPROVING EAST-WEST CLIMATE AND PARTLY TO HIS INITIATIVE. ROMANOVSKIY ENTERTAINED MORE FREQUENTLY THAN HIS PREDECESSORS. OFTEN WITH SMALL GROUPS. HE MADE CONTACT WITH IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER MINISTRIES, PARLIAMENT AND THE LABOR, SOCIALIST LEFT AND COMMUNIST PARTIES. GENERALLY

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HE WORKED THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.

3. BORN ON OCTOBER 21, 1923 IN NOVOSELTSY. SMOLENSK OBLAST, HE MARRIED TAMARA NIKITICHNA A PEDIATRIC SURGEON WHO WAS BORN NOVEMBER 5, 1925. ROMANOVSKIY'S EARLY CAREER WAS SPENT IN YOUTH ACTIVITIES. HE WAS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS, 1947-49; DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE OF USSR YOUTH 1947-54; SECRETARY OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH 1949-55; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SOVIET YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, 1954-55. DURING 1955-60 HE SERVED ON THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF PEACE, AND IN 1957-59 WAS KOMSOMOL SECRETARY. IN 1960-62 HE SERVED AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR STATE COMMITTEE FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, LATER TO BE CHAIRMAN FROM 1962-65. NAMED AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY IN JANUARY 1968. HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME SOVIET IN 1968.

4. IN HIS WORK WITH YOUTH AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS HE REPORTEDLY TRAVELED FREQUENTLY, OFTEN AS A MEMBER OF KRUSCHEV, KOSYGIN, BREZHNEV AND POGORNY ENTOURAGES. AS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE "KOMOSOMOL" GROUP. HE HAD CLOSE TIES WITH SHELEPIN AND SEMICHASTNIY. AT THE TIME OF SHELEPIN'S FALL THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT ROMANOVSKIY'S FORTUNES MIGHT ALSO BE AFFECTED.

5. MRS. ROMANOVSKI IS FRIENDLY AND ATTRACTIVE; SHE SPEAKS BETTER ENGLISH THAN HER HUSBAND. DURING HER STAY IN OSLO SHE SUFFERED A BROKEN LEG, WHICH PROVIDED HER AN APPARENTLY WELCOME EXCUSE TO RETURN TO MOSCOW, WHERE SHE REMAINED TO PURSUE HER PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, BE, UR, NO, (ROMANOVSKIY, SERGE K)  
**To:** STATE  
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